# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:14
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
EARTH SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of the moves made by India at the recent Earth summit on Sustainable Developmentheld at Johannesburg to secure concessions, aid and advice for the developing world from developed countries

(b) whether any consensus has been arrived at the summit on these moves and if so, the details indicating the manner in which the same were reflected in the Declarations and Resolutions adopted; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the light thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) The Summit started in the backdrop of the attempts made by developed countries to dilute the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as agreed at United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. India with the help of like minded countries succeeded in making the industrialized world reaffirm their commitment to these principles. The other equally important concerns which were raised by the developing countries were ensuring access for the people to clean water and sanitation facilities, increasing access to energy and health services, halting and preventing loss of Biodiversity and its sustainable utilization, changing the present unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and means of implementation to achieve these objectives. The effortsmade by various blocks on imposing disguised trade barriers in the nature of eco-labeling, life-cycle analysis criteria, and inclusion of core labour standards of ILO were successfully concerned by the developing countries.

(b) The plan of Implementation and political Declaration issued after the Summit has highlighted concerns ofdeveloping countries and reflect consensus among all countries arrived after the WSSD. The Plan of Implementation calls for immediate international action to tackle these issues.

(c) the Government regularly monitors its performance on the benchmark of annual and Five Year Plans which contain all elements of sustainable development. Ministry of Environment and Forests has set up a mechanism for follow up action on various decisions taken in the world Summit.